

THAT FIRE.

Wagner & Co's Blaze Promises a Sensation.

Detectives Harris and Metzler at Work on the Case.

It Looks Very Much Like the Bold Fire-bug's Work.

Goods Valued at \$10,000 Insured for \$25,000. A "Nigger" in the Woodpile.

Parasites.

A week ago yesterday, at 4:30 o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the store-room in the rear of Wagner & Co's grocery store, on Spring street.

One door from the corner of First. Fortunately, the fire was discovered before it got under full headway, the fire department turned out promptly, and, after some of the best work ever performed anywhere, the flames were extinguished, and what was once threatened to be the most destructive conflagration in the history of the city, was averted.

The fire had been admirably managed from the first. Ropes had been stretched across the street, and no one was allowed to enter except the firemen, and nothing was allowed to be removed from the building. As soon as the smoke had cleared away, and the excitement subsided, Chief Mortimer made a personal examination of the premises, when a rather startling state of things was discovered.

The fire, as above stated, occurred in the store-room immediately in the rear of the store proper, from which it is separated by a board partition, and, after the apartment having been set on fire in three or four places in different parts of the room, in one place above a number of cases of coal oil, aggregating 500 gallons, the wooden coverings of which were in some instances fastened by the firemen when they reached the place, with the exception of the rear door, which was not fastened by a heavy iron bar on the inside. This door was found pulled to, but not secured, and it was found lying on a pile of sacks or boxes, near by, on the inside of the building. There was no lamp in the room where the fire started, and no provision made for lighting the place.

Several other rather suspicious circumstances were noted, and no reasonable explanation could be given of the probable origin of the fire except incendiary.

Mr. Wagner carried an insurance of \$25,000 on stock and fixtures, and, as is customary, the place was put in charge of a guard by Chief Mortimer, until the insurance matters were settled. The adjusters for the various companies in interest at once went over for the premises, and, after the report of the fire chief, could not see their way clear to pay the losses without a further investigation. In fact, their suspicions were aroused to such an extent that Detectives Harris and Metzler were at once engaged to work up the case, and they have been during the past week.

These gentlemen are very vigilant as to any matter having to do with the fire, and that some of their discoveries have been of the most sensational character, which may be seen in the next column.

Among other things, it is said that by the most liberal allowances, the underwriters cannot figure up more than between \$12,000 and \$15,000 worth of stock, as against \$25,000 insurance; the detectives have also been industriously digging up records, it is said, of work with some very interesting results.

At all events, there is a big law suit probable in the very near future, which promises to be of a most sensational nature, even if no criminal prosecution results.

A Times reporter last night went through that portion of the building where the fire started. It is substantially in the same condition as on the morning of the fire, nothing having been removed and no changes having been made. The reporter counted over 40 cases of coal oil, of 10 gal. each, the wooden coverings charred and in some cases burned entirely off. In some of the best of the solid construction of the building, and how it is that there was no explosion is one of those mysteries which never have been explained. If the oil had been caught, no power could have stopped the progress of the flames, and the entire block would have been consumed, and, as there are numerous persons residing in the upper floor of the building, the point where the fire started is fairly visible, as in other parts of the room the woodwork is only charred on the outside. No matter what else the investigation may develop, one thing is certain, and that is that the law in regard to the storing of coal oil in the live stock market has been violated, and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property jeopardized, by say nothing of the endangering of the lives of innocent people. The reporter left the place with a feeling that a great danger had been averted by a hair's breadth, a danger that should at least be guarded against in the future by compelling a rigid compliance with the law.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

In response to a call emanating from the Ancient Order of Hibernians a large number of representatives of the Irish and American communities assembled yesterday at Hibernia Hall to take under advisement the question of celebrating Ireland's national day. D. M. McGarry was called to the chair, and J. St. Patrick acted as secretary.

The chairman stated the object of the meeting, and after some desultory discussion it was unanimously resolved that an invitation banquet be held on the evening of the 17th of March; that such banquet should not be peculiar to any sect, society or party, but should be broadly national, and that should not interfere in any way with any other celebration that may or might be given in honor of the Irish race or nationality.

On suggestion of the presiding officer the meeting appointed the committee of arrangement, which consisted of the following gentlemen: J. P. Moran, E. F. Spence, John Kennedy, P. S. Dorney, John Morley, J. O'Neil, J. Ryan and the chairman, D. M. McGarry.

The regular meeting adjourned and the banquet was postponed to the 17th of March, at 8 o'clock, at Hibernia Hall. The committee on the banquet is now at work, and it is expected that the affair will be a most successful one.

Meeting adjourned for one week.

Thieves Caught in the Act.

E. Lockwood and G. B. Martin broke into the premises of the Los Angeles Abstract Company Saturday night, but were only rewarded for the trouble they had taken by being arrested and taken to the City Prison. They offered no resistance, and there was nothing portable that they desired to carry off, they were taken to the City Prison, and the money was returned to the owner.

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 and well-assorted stock of WALL PAPER and DECORATIONS, and employ competent
 artists to execute designs in oil, water, and fresco.** I also have a large stock of
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 Having a large and well-lighted store I can show goods to advantage.
SOME PRICES GUARANTEED.
Country Orders Solicited, to which I Give My Personal Attention.
PRICES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION.—
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SOLID FACTS.

HOW LABORING PEOPLE ARE KEPT UP.

Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars Paid for Skilled Labor in This City—What Factories are Doing—A Good Showing.

Not long since, in conversation with a gentleman regarding the possibilities of Los Angeles as a great city, he remarked that "it might become a large aggregation of residences of wealthy men, with their villas, fine lawns, flower gardens, and the usual accoutrements of the homes of those who have abandoned business, and only want quiet and luxury. To such Los Angeles offers every element of an earthly paradise. But such men do not make a city in the proper sense of the word, even though there be a million of them within the corporate limits of a town. They furnish no labor for poor men, beyond a certain number of body servants and household attendants. But the great essential for a city, that which furnishes employment for the thousands whose labor makes the difference between a live, bustling metropolis and a desert, a wilderness, or the sleepy village which has been finished and died years ago—manufacturing enterprises—are not here, and cannot be; you are too far and not far enough from the seaboard; you have some of the necessary adjuncts of a manufacturing center here; as a matter of fact, there is not a single manufacturing enterprise in operation here; you bring here from elsewhere everything you need, either of food, drink, clothing, furniture, carriages—everything but climate, and you do not do so to sell town lots—no, I beg pardon," said he, "you have a soap factory."

The Times was not willing to admit all these assertions, though ready to concede that the manufactures of Los Angeles were not yet developed to the extent they will be. So he determined to investigate the facts, and learn just to what extent manufacturing is being carried on here, and so be ready to strike the next gun of that nature which might be fired on the weak spot in his wall of defense. To this end he commenced a personal canvass of the business streets and firms, for the desired information. He was not long in obtaining, even to one who thoroughly believes that Los Angeles lacks in nothing and is yet to count her hundreds of thousands of people. The extent and variety of manufactures already established far exceeds that of any other city of the same size. The aggregate value of the annual products of these enterprises reaches into the millions, and is growing with a rapidity equalled by the growth of the city in population. To furnish the antidote for the poison of such remarks as those referred to above, the result of his canvass will be given in these columns and in the succeeding issues.

IRON MANUFACTURING.

He found among the iron and steel works firms doing a business amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars per annum—some more extensive than any in the same line on the coast. The Southern Iron Works and Co., whose works are located at the corner of Buena Vista and Virginia streets, with a brick building, are engaged in the manufacture of iron pipe for conveying water for irrigation and domestic purposes. They have a large tank for the iron pipe, and also iron tanks for storing the oil at these points. They are using the material to a large extent. The amount used in their operations is so great that they find it advantageous to import their material direct from Sweden. They pay a duty of 45 per cent, and as their importations amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, their contribution to the treasury of our common Uncle Samuel is of itself a very good thing. They are supplied with the material at the present time more than 100 men, mostly skilled labor, and their pay-roll amounts to as high as \$100,000 per week. They also manufacture almost every article made from sheet iron. They find a market for their goods almost exclusively in the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino and San Diego. The value of the manufactured goods of this firm for the year 1887 amounted to very nearly \$400,000; and as the country is settled up and the demand for water and consequently water-pipe to carry it increases, the demand for their goods increases in the same ratio. They are expected to have an increased demand for this year of fully 100 per cent, and expect to increase their facilities for supplying it, so as to be ready to meet all calls upon them.

BAKER IRON WORKS.

This firm was established in 1860, and was known to old residents as S. Baker & Co. The company incorporated in 1866 under the present name. They manufacture mill, mining, pumping, and hoisting machinery; oil and well-boring rigs and tools; street cars and street car gears; axles and wheels; shafting, pulleys, gears and hangers; ranges, boilers, ovens, jacket kettles, etc.; building frames and architectural iron work for the very heaviest description (and of this latter they make a specialty); gang-piles, scrapers, land-rollers, and extra and special, also they make everything made of iron. Their works are located on Buena Vista street, near the railroad depot, and are very extensive and complete in all departments. They employ at present 100 men. Their pay-roll last week was \$2000. They manufacture last year more than 1000 tons of castings of all descriptions. They used more than 3000 tons of wrought iron and boilerplate iron. Their goods are sold in all parts of Southern California, Arizona, and they even supply San Francisco with some of their manufactures. In addition to their own manufactures they are sole agents for a variety of engines, pumps, steam-pumps, etc., of which they handle an average of one and one-half carloads per month. Their business amounts to more than \$500,000 per annum, and is rapidly increasing—a very fair showing for a city with "absolutely no manufactures."

ROMAN & SCOTT.

at Castelar and Virginia streets. They employ from 40 to 50 men, paying out about \$600 per week to their employees. They manufacture every variety of cast-iron goods, from the heaviest architectural iron work to the lightest article to fill an order. In fact, a general jobbing business. They use about 15 tons of pig-iron per month; 10 tons of coke, the same amount of coal. They make a specialty of apparatus for iron pipe works and elevators. They also do a large business in building business, manufacturing castings for water company gates, of sizes from 6 to 30 inches. They also make a specialty of building oil-burning motors for the various new lines of local railroads. They are building two plants for heavy hydraulic jacks for artesian well-boring. They build the machinery for piling mills, having already

SMOOTHIE'S GRIF.

MEN WHO KNOW THE NOTED

And How He Acted in New Orleans—His Latest Note Swindle and How It Was Accomplished—Will Appear in Court Today.

This morning the case of Dr. G. Hamilton Griffin will be called in Department 1 of the Superior court, at 10 o'clock. The time is close at hand when an opportunity will be afforded him to clear himself of the charges—as he asserts erroneously—preferred against him. He has not been idle since his preliminary examination; he has composed his story, and with Mr. Mouton, as whose initials were arrested, and during the week just passed has contrived to get Mr. de Turk to settle his difficulty with the MacFergusons—the colored couple from Missouri, whose troubles with the doctor have already been set forth by THE TIMES. In addition to the above he has been very busy attempting to disprove certain portions of his record that have appeared in THE TIMES. It was asserted that Griffin was traveling on the continent of Europe, hobnobbing with all the notables of the land, at the time THE TIMES located him in New Orleans, engaged in swindling his countrymen—the negroes of Louisiana—out of their hard-earned savings. Passports and other documents were shown by Griffin, as a matter of fact, the kind of a professional swindler; in the hands of an honest man, however, they would be of little value. The truth of what appears on his face, but in the hands of a man like Griffin they are of no value. It is not to be taken for granted that he is a swindler, and that is nothing at all.

AN OUTRAGE.

A Country J. P. and His Constables Break the Law.

The indiscriminate arrest and imprisonment of persons in the County Jail on trivial charges, by a justice of the peace, and by now 245 prisoners in that institution, two-thirds of whom have no business there, as they are simple drunks who should be taken to the City Prison, if they go anywhere, and given a few days on the chain-gang, would seem to be a matter of course. The necessary adjuncts of a manufacturing center here; as a matter of fact, there is not a single manufacturing enterprise in operation here; you bring here from elsewhere everything you need, either of food, drink, clothing, furniture, carriages—everything but climate, and you do not do so to sell town lots—no, I beg pardon," said he, "you have a soap factory."

The Times was not willing to admit all these assertions, though ready to concede that the manufactures of Los Angeles were not yet developed to the extent they will be. So he determined to investigate the facts, and learn just to what extent manufacturing is being carried on here, and so be ready to strike the next gun of that nature which might be fired on the weak spot in his wall of defense. To this end he commenced a personal canvass of the business streets and firms, for the desired information. He was not long in obtaining, even to one who thoroughly believes that Los Angeles lacks in nothing and is yet to count her hundreds of thousands of people. The extent and variety of manufactures already established far exceeds that of any other city of the same size. The aggregate value of the annual products of these enterprises reaches into the millions, and is growing with a rapidity equalled by the growth of the city in population. To furnish the antidote for the poison of such remarks as those referred to above, the result of his canvass will be given in these columns and in the succeeding issues.

YOUNG SCAMPS.

Ten-year-old youngsters want to be highwaymen. Frank and Charles Collier are of the respective ages of 10 and 12 years, but have all the ambition and pluck of men three times their years. They had an eager desire to see the world, and they conceived a very pretty little scheme by which they might get away from home and see all the wonders of the world. They had a plan of action that had determined on a plan of action that they carried it into execution.

WATER THIEF.

And How He Played It on San Bernardino. Deputy Sheriff H. B. Bernardino is in this city, and is very desirous of meeting with a man named Christian Muckow, who skipped out from San Bernardino with \$300 belonging to his employer. Much acted in the capacity of water at a restaurant, and during the absence of the proprietor took in the cash. Yesterday something occurred to draw the owner of the restaurant away from the desk for a short time, and the water thief saw his opportunity. He had been lying low in the safe had disappeared, and also his factum had been taken to the police station. He had been in the situation for nearly four months, and had been trusted by his employer as an apparently faithful and honest man.

DUNHAM'S SAFE.

Officer Fowler finds it in a vacant lot. Yesterday morning Mounted Police Officer Bob Fowler found the safe stolen from the residence of Ed Dunham in East Los Angeles several days ago, in which were his wife's jewels and \$600 in money, lying in a vacant lot at the corner of Rowland and Oak streets. The combination, handle and key had been broken off, and the safe was open. The safe was found in a vacant lot at the corner of Rowland and Oak streets. The combination, handle and key had been broken off, and the safe was open. The safe was found in a vacant lot at the corner of Rowland and Oak streets. The combination, handle and key had been broken off, and the safe was open.

RUNAWAY BOYS.

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Lee's Capture.

Last evening Officer Lee was passing down Commercial street, near Wilmington, he noticed two men acting rather suspiciously. As he drew nearer he noticed that one appeared to be rifling the pockets of the other, so he hastened his footsteps, and the two men fled. He followed them for a short distance, and then they turned into a narrow alleyway. He followed them into the alleyway, and then they turned into a narrow alleyway. He followed them into the alleyway, and then they turned into a narrow alleyway.

Reaching Out.

A great many complaints have recently been forwarded to Chief of Police J. H. Miller, of the number of frauds and other bad acts which have lately haunted the vicinity of Boyle Heights. In order, if possible, to clear the gang out, officers have been detailed to patrol the neighborhood, and for the far only hard cases seen have been certain members of the Los Angeles chain-gang, who, having been released, have been in the right direction—away from the city—leaving the others to their undoing and let them pass.

Undelivered Telegrams.

There are undelivered telegrams at the Western Union Telegraph office for the following-named parties: For James Miller (2), Samuel Britz, Miss A. Canziani, C. Young or B. Walker, A. E. Gwynne, George D. Harrison, Ismail Durazo.

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